

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 AF-10 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4337
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 1661
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10417

VIENNA ALSO FOR USIAEA, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, MNUC, PARM, PK

1. MFA SECRETARY GENERAL AND DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER AGHA SHAHI, DURING MEETING WITH AMB MORNING OF OCTOBER 19, SAID THAT PAKISTAN HAD DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN INFCEP ORGANIZING CONFERENCE. SHAHI GAVE AMB AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH NOTED THAT THE GOP ACCEPTED THE INVITATION ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE WILL EVALUATE INFCEP AND THAT THIS EXERCISE IS NOT ENVISIONED AS "LEADING TO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS OR AS ENTAILING SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS". AIDE MEMOIRE ALSO STATES THAT GOP PARTICIPATIONS IS NOT "PREJUDICIAL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS".

2. SHAHI SAID THAT DECISION TO ATTEND WAS A DIFFICULT ONE TO MAKE. THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE GREATLY
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PREFERRED TO LET A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT DECIDE, BUT ONCE ELECTIONS WERE POSTPONED, THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINED THAT A DECISION SHOULD NOT BE DEFERRED.

3. SHAHI ADDED THAT GENERAL ZIA WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL DESIRE TO SEE THE CONFERENCE AND STUDY A SUCCESS, AND HAD DECIDED TO

REPLY POSITIVELY OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE PRESIDENT. IT WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE "DOMESTIC POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS". THE GOVERNMENT "HAS ITS FINGERS CORSSSED" THAT GOP ACCEPTANCE WILL NOT BE MISCONSTRUED BY "CERTAIN POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN PAKISTAN."

4. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE GOP DOES NOT WANT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT PROJECT PREJUDICED BY ATTENDANCE AT THE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE. IF PAKISTAN FEELS SUCH ATTENDANCE WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH, THE GOP "RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RECONSIDER OUR PARTICIPATION".

5. SHAHI SAID THAT AMBASSADOR TO THE US YAQUB-KHAN WILL LEAD THE PAKDEL TO THE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE. DUE TO THE SHORT LEAD TIME, ALL THE DELEGATES WILL BE GOP OFFICIALS NOW IN THE STATES. IN ADDITION TO YAQUB, ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NIAZ NAIK, AND PAK AMB TO AUSTRIA ABDUL SATTAR (OR SOMEONE HE DESIGNATES) WHO IS TEMPORARILY WITH THE PAK UN DELEGATION, WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE.

6. AMB NOTED HIS PERSONAL PLEASURE AT THE GOP DECISION AND ADDED THAT HE IS CERTAIN THE USG WILL ALSO BE PLEASED. PAKISTANI PARTICIPATION IS ESPECIALLY WELCOME BECAUSE OTHER WISE PAKISTAN WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN THE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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INVITEE NOT TO ATTEND AND ITS ABSENCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISCONSTRUED. AMB SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE GOP'S DECISION TO WASHINGTON, AND ADDED THAT SAUDI ARABIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ALGERIA HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

7. SHAHI HAD OPENED MEETING BY EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION WITH HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND ALSO WITH HIS BRIEF CHAT WITH THE PRESIDENT AT A LUNCH. HE SAID HE HAD EXPRESSED TO PRES. CARTER DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE PRESIDENT'S INABILITY TO VISIR PAKISTAN AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD REPLIED THAT HE COULD COME BACK TO THE AREA SOME TIME. HUMMEL

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